

JANUARY • 1947

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



1947



Official Magazine

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS • WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS OF AMERICA

Contracts Must Be Observed

EVENTS in St. Louis during the past few weeks should convince our membership that the International Union is determined to enforce its contracts.

It cannot enforce its contracts if irresponsible members are permitted to walk off the job and tie up an industry every time a whim moves them.

Despite repeated warnings from the International, a few insurgents in St. Louis persisted in their belief that a contract was binding only upon their employers and not on them. They continued to cause work stoppages.

Six of the alleged ringleaders were brought to trial last month for an unauthorized strike in November. Four of them were convicted and expelled from the union. Some 30 others are scheduled to be tried on similar charges growing out of a second wildcat strike called in protest over the conviction of the four men.

As a result of this summary action, the Teamsters of St. Louis are aware that wildcat strikes will not be tolerated.

It is well that our membership in all other cities realize this without the painful necessity of disciplinary action which may result in the revocation of their union cards.

The International Union goes to great effort and expense to provide all local unions with assistance in negotiating contracts. Our legal and statistical departments are at the service of all locals. International organizers are always available to assist local unions, at no expense whatever to the local.

The International does everything possible to aid its locals in obtaining the best wage scales and the most favorable conditions possible.

All it expects of them in return is that they observe the terms of the contracts they sign. The International insists that the employers observe them. It also insists that its members do likewise.

Unless unions do observe their signed commitments, the whole structure of collective bargaining will collapse. It will be replaced by federal boards empowered to negotiate contracts and force compliance.

Labor protested the rigidity of federal controls during the war. Now they have been removed. We are free again. But we will not remain free unless labor will fulfill its obligations.

Labor today is on trial before the court of public opinion. If the decision goes against us, Congress will impose severe restrictions that may drastically limit the freedom of working men.

Our only chance to escape this penalty is to show that our word is good. The International Union has established such a reputation in its dealings over half a century. We do not propose to permit agitators to destroy that reputation. We intend to vigorously enforce our contracts. If anyone doubts that intention, let him look at St. Louis.

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN . AND HELPERS

Vol. XLIV

JANUARY, 1947

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Owing to the paper crisis which came after Congress killed the OPA, it has become necessary to drastically reduce the number of pages in this issue. The February issue may be equally small but we hope to have sufficient paper to go back to 32 pages for the March issue.

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Daniel J. Tobin, Editor

Thomas E. Flynn, Assistant Editor

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Labor Stands in Dangerous Position

Pres. Tobin Looks Ahead in His 39th New Year Message

TO ALL our members I wish a happy, successful and enjoyable New Year. I have sent those greetings now for 39 years in succession through the columns of this journal as your general president and editor.

The year that has passed has been a year of heartbreaks for many of us, and the labor movement has in all its history never been so disturbed or in such a dangerous position as it is at the present time.

We are better off, generally speaking, than we were a year ago, and I am certainly convinced that we are many, many times better off than we were two years ago, not only our own members, but also the nation and the world.

Two years ago we were in war, and no one knew how that war was going to end. The war was ended one year ago insofar as the fighting and loss of life were concerned, but we had millions of our Americans scattered all over the world. Most of them have returned and have taken up, as good citizens, their places in our society and are endeavoring to establish a foundation for better living in our country.

At this writing, however, an industrial war is prevailing that was never equaled in the history of our nation, because of its seriousness, nor was it equaled in the entire world in the misunderstandings that now exist between labor, capital and government.

Let us hope (and it is our earnest prayer) that when another year rolls around that we will have established better relations between labor and business and government.

I am not foolish enough to believe that this is going to be easy, but I am optimistic enough to know that it must be done and

that it will be done no matter what happens. This present condition now confronting the nation and affecting the whole world at this writing (in the last of December of the old year) cannot continue or else nothing can result but anarchy and revolution, and those are two conditions of life that I know cannot obtain in our country.

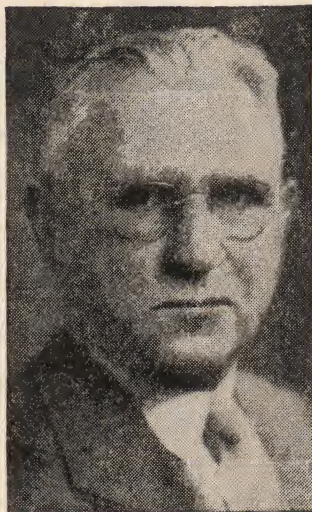
The American people have won the progress that they now enjoy through common sense, courage, strategy and a desire to understand each other. We must get back to that condition of better understanding. We will get back there although I feel now that all sides must make sacrifices, because otherwise there can be no real, substantial, permanent progress for our country and its people.

During every war there is a condition of mind established in those who participated in the war that it takes some years to eliminate. Some men who have

risked their lives have had their powers of thinking sanely, set back, or blurred is perhaps a better description.

It is this condition of blurred intellect which breeds mild contempt for everything. Radicalism in the handling of the affairs of trade unions only exists in an insignificant, infinitesimal number of the men and women who participated in the last awful world war.

We destroyed the enemies of civilization who endeavored to conquer the world, both in Europe and in Asia, but if that destruction of those monsters means the price of continued unrest in our nation, bordering on a disturbance which might lead to mild revolution, then we have, in reality, only partially won the war and only partially destroyed the human monsters, Hitler and



Daniel J. Tobin

Hirohito. This defiance of law within the unions and this seemingly mild contempt that prevails on both sides of questions can lead to conditions that I would rather not mention, unless we stop them now. Yes, stop those conditions now—whoever is to blame—or else all of us—the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, the organized and the unorganized—will suffer.

The employer who stands on the old doctrine of “I own this business, and no one is going to tell me what to do” belongs to the ages past. The representative of a union who leads his men to believe that they are all-powerful and that they cannot be subdued and that the other side of the question deserves no consideration—is a great danger to our future progress.

It must be remembered that 96 per cent of the people of this country are workers or the representatives of workers. Labor has a great responsibility in leading the newly organized masses of the workers—many millions—to an understanding that must be based on common sense; on justice. We cannot go forward by living on the prejudices established by the persecutions we endured in the past. If we are to guide our actions in the future by what we endured in the early days of our attempts to organize, then we will make no progress.

Certainly, the dollars we receive are not equal in purchasing power to the dollars of the past, when we only received a few dollars, but the working men and women of our country, especially the organized workers, are living better than they ever did in the history of this country, and business is making more money in less hours and with less strain and with less gambling than business ever made in the history of any nation or in the history of the world.

Consequently, before disputes come to an acute point, interrupting business and inconveniencing multitudes of innocent people, great care should be taken and sacrifices should be made to prevent any unnecessary disruption of business or inconvenience of government, because no one suffers more in the end than the toilers.

There has been a vast improvement in the heads of big business within the last 12 or

15 years. Men of greater vision have come to lead business. Those men have great responsibilities, but they are not like the unreasonable heads of great monopolies and great wealth with whom we had to deal 20 or 30 years ago.

There are, of course, an insignificant few left who represent the old type of “I am the King” and refuse to recognize that we are in a new world, a world that has been saved from destruction by the blood of the common man. Fortunately they are a very few.

I try not to be prejudiced but it is difficult for one who has gone through life and suffered under starvation wages to be free from prejudice. In my judgment, organized labor has been the greatest influence towards bringing about the better understandings that have prevailed in recent years and bringing to the fore in big business and small business high-class, intelligent, human leadership.

Organized labor now is the greatest bulwark against radicalism or any other force that would overthrow our government. We are making new recruits every day, and we are out on the fighting front defending the system of free enterprise, defending the right of men to belong to any church or to no church, as they please, defending democracy in every sense of the word and trying to carry on. And we will carry on until we bring to the workers of the nation and to the heads of business in our country, stability, respect and confidence in one another.

So that, facing this New Year, 1947, let us look forward with hope and confidence in ourselves and in the solemn and binding belief in our government and in the institutions of government and pledge ourselves that if there is anything wrong in our form of government, that we will remedy the wrongs by the greatest gift that has ever been given a free people, namely, the gift of the secret, free, powerful ballot, to which every citizen, male and female, is entitled.

We also need to train better men in both business and labor—men who must not forget that power or influence are not given to either side to be abused, men who have the courage to disagree, if necessary, with their board of directors or with their membership

in unions—to the end that they may lead those whom they represent away from bitterness and suffering.

One thing is certain—that force by either government or any other institution never accomplished the desired results. We will be confronted by adverse legislation during the coming year, but adverse legislation aimed to cripple the toilers of the nation will not create harmony or establish due consideration for the rights of others.

Men holding political offices are only the representatives of the people, and if they misrepresent the people, they can be removed and other representatives chosen.

Labor in the coming year will be persecuted and attempts will be made by narrow-minded seekers and holders of political office to destroy labor, but the more that labor is persecuted the stronger it will eventually become.

Some of this persecution of labor is due to a few, a very few, leaders of labor, because of their refusal to make concessions to each other and bring labor into one family.

Those leaders may now hold the votes in each separate camp, but when the history of the labor movement is written by those who come after us, they will be held responsible for the hardships that are now endured by labor and for the legislative enactments that will come during the year against labor.

If labor were united and the prejudices of the few set aside in the interests of the majority, there is no power in this nation that could stop labor from electing to office its friends and defeating its enemies.

Labor has done this before, on more than one occasion, even since it was divided, but it was an uphill, hard fight. With a united labor front it could and would and must be done, or else we will lose the progress we have accomplished for the past 40 years.

I am somewhat depressed, at this writing, because of the disturbed conditions of labor and capital and government, but I am not discouraged, because for every victory that labor or government has achieved in this country, they have had to go through the fires of purification and suffering in order to make progress.

Many of us have lost some friends during the past year—friends that one year ago surrounded us—those we loved at the beginning of the new year—but they have left us behind to carry on, but to offset that loss, others have come to us in our present circle of friends who will help us and encourage us to keep going onward.

Nature takes its toll year after year, but nature also replenishes and replaces what it takes in its own way, and so it is that we cannot and must not look backward. We must look onward and forward and only look backward to profit by those mistakes that we have made, and who is it that has not made mistakes?

I am confident that this year 1947, at its ending, will find us a better nation with greater solidarity and confidence amongst all the people. With this thought in mind I ask the membership of this great union with its nearly 900,000 members, to work more sincerely, if possible, toward the end that we may preserve this union, which may be seriously set back because of legislation during the coming year.

I ask them to support their officers when elected and to guard well against the enemies who are exposed and who are sometimes hidden within the unions.

I ask and pray of our membership to give me and other international officers their support and confidence so that we can continue to go forward, endeavoring to raise up the minds and the living conditions of the people whom we represent and bring about, in our humble efforts, with each of our people helping, a greater measure of peace and consideration, based on a determination to remain loyal to the obligation we have taken, which is, in substance, "We will be loyal to our country and by being loyal to our country, we will be loyal and faithful citizens and members of our union."

A Happy and Contented New Year in 1947!

DANIEL J. TOBIN,
General President and Editor.

4 Expelled in St. Louis—30 Face Trial

Unauthorized Strikes Cause Prompt Action by Union

FOUR members of Local No. 600 of St. Louis have been expelled and some 30 others are facing trial for instigating and participating in wildcat strikes.

The four expulsions were unanimously voted by the trial board of Local No. 600, with International Organizer Harold Thirion pressing the charges.

The four expelled members were found guilty of gross disloyalty to their union by acts which brought Local No. 600 and the Teamsters' Union generally into disrepute.

They were associated with a faction which had kept the freight industry of St. Louis in a turmoil by constant demands on the employers which were unjustified under the provisions of the contract now in force.

In fact, many of the demands were nothing more than an excuse to justify illegal strike action, according to charges made by Thirion during the trials of the agitators last month. In presenting the evidence against the men, Thirion declared that early in November one of the insurgents called to ask permission for a one-day work stoppage at the Daniel Tamm Drayage Company, where the insurgent leader was a shop steward.

Thirion, who is trustee of Local No. 600, flatly refused to tolerate it and pointed out that no such action was possible under the contract in force.

Thirion told the shop steward that if any grievances existed at the Hamm company, a report should be made to union headquarters and a business agent would be assigned to investigate it immediately.

No grievance was reported, but on November 14, the Hamm employees were

called out on strike by the steward over the discharge of a driver who had refused to handle merchandise as ordered by the company.

Business agents of Local No. 600 investigated and after a conference with the company, the discharged man was rehired, even though the employer was under no obligation to do so. After the employer had made

this concession, the men still refused to return to work, claiming that an additional grievance existed over starting time. The contract did not require the action demanded by the strikers, but again the employer yielded. But still the men refused to go back to work, insisting that a supervisor be fired, even though the job he held was under no jurisdiction of the union.

In recounting these incidents to the trial board, Thirion declared that the settlement of one grievance led only to the appearance of another and that it was

evident that the strikers had no intention of returning to work.

The strikers ignored the demands of their union officers and of Thirion to return to work and it was not until the strike had lasted a day and one-half that the men returned to their jobs.

As a consequence, Thirion filed charges against six men involved. The trials were set for December 6 in the meeting room of a local hotel, to assure the men a fair trial on neutral ground.

After two of the trials had been held, a mob of about 40 men stormed the hotel, creating so much disorder that it was impossible to continue the trials that day. The remaining four were tried on December 12 and three of them were found guilty and



Globe-Democrat Photo
Harold Thirion

expelled. Of the two men tried on December 6, the shop steward was convicted and the penalty was set as expulsion by unanimous action of the board. The second man was acquitted.

In an effort to intimidate the local union and the International, the insurgent faction called a strike in the St. Louis freight industry on December 9, boasting that "not a wheel would turn in St. Louis."

They succeeded in tying up four companies employing about 500 men, but the big companies employing the rest of the 2,300 freight drivers in St. Louis continued to roll.

After two days of unsuccessful effort to make good their boast, the second wildcat strike petered out and charges were being prepared against some 30 men accused of promoting and participating in it.

As the second wildcat strike broke on December 9, Local No. 600 and Joint Council No. 13 put large ads in three daily news-

papers under the caption—"Not a Strike—A Conspiracy."

It recited that there was no cause for any strike in St. Louis and that all members of Local No. 600 were working under union contracts. "There is no dispute between Local No. 600 and any of the 350 employers with whom it holds contracts," the advertisement stated.

It further informed all members of the union that any man engaging in a wildcat strike did so at his own peril and faced cancellation of his union card.

This strong public stand by Local No. 600 and other Teamster locals of St. Louis broke the back of the wildcat strike almost overnight.

The filing of charges also broke the back of the insurgent movement. Harmonious conditions have returned to Local No. 600 and Thirion is confident that it can soon be taken out of trusteeship.



Star-Times Photo.

THE TRIAL BOARD of Local No. 600 of St. Louis which tried six wildcat strikers last month. Seated, from the left, they are Angelo Costello, Henry Hagensicker, William C. Maul and John Wray. Standing are John Ware, Clem Jungman and Ray Kraus. The board convicted four of the six defendants and the penalty was expulsion from the union.

Pittsburgh Brewery War Persists

CIO Opens General Fight on Teamster Jurisdiction

ANNOUNCEMENT of a general campaign against the Teamsters' Union has been made by the CIO. It followed the squeeze put on the Teamsters by the CIO and the breweries in Pittsburgh last October.

In Pittsburgh the CIO refused to recognize the right of the bottlers to join a union of their own choosing. When the bottlers, by a vote of 433 to 52, decided to affiliate with the Teamsters, the CIO resorted to intimidation.

In cooperation with the employers, they served notice on the bottlers that they would lose their jobs unless they retained their affiliation with the Brewery Workers.

The CIO maintained that the bottlers were working under a CIO contract. They were not. The contract was negotiated by the Brewery Workers before their international union affiliated with the CIO last September.

The contract was negotiated by the local Brewery Workers. It was their contract, not a CIO contract. And when they voted to join the Teamsters, it was still their contract.

The Teamsters recognized that contract and agreed to fulfill its provisions. The bottlers in the Pittsburgh breweries were never affiliated with the CIO. It was to prevent being delivered to the CIO that they voted to join the Teamsters.

The Brewery Workers' International Union was entitled to join the CIO if it wanted to, however small the majority by which the affiliation was voted.

But when a local union voted overwhelmingly to join the Teamsters, the CIO denied them that basic democratic right. In other words, the CIO recognizes only the votes that favor it.

The Pittsburgh soft drink workers also affiliated with the Brewery Workers did exactly the same thing that the bottlers did. They joined the Teamsters and they took their contract with them.

For some reason the CIO did not challenge the right of the soft drink workers to affiliate with the Teamsters. But in the identical case of the bottlers, they provoked a fight which has engulfed six states.

The Pittsburgh fight is being handled by International Organizers Nicholas P. Morrissey of Boston, James Ruehl of Buffalo and Albert Dietrich of Pittsburgh.

At a conference last month with the international organizers and Martin J. Walsh, secretary-treasurer of Joint Council No. 40 of Pittsburgh, and Joseph J. Quillin, president of Local No. 843 of Newark, President Tobin issued instructions to push the fight to a victorious conclusion, regardless of the time and effort involved.

Even in the face of the insolent CIO attitude, the Teamsters have accepted every offer of compromise proposed by the employers or by Gov. Edward Martin of Pennsylvania.

They agreed to maintain the status quo pending a collective bargaining election in April when the present contract expires. They also agreed to an immediate election. They have accepted every proposal which would protect the bottlers in their right to join any union they desire.

The Teamsters will abide by the outcome of any fair election held among the Pittsburgh bottlers in which all of them are permitted to indicate their free choice of a union without any coercion or influence from any source.

They will never agree to an election in which the votes are counted in advance and the men who don't favor the CIO are deprived of their jobs.

The Pittsburgh controversy can be settled in five minutes if the CIO wants to settle it.

As Flynn told a meeting of 300 Teamsters business agents representing all the locals in Pennsylvania in November—"The CIO has given us only two alternatives—to fight or surrender. We will never surrender."

Penn Teamsters meet Governor



GOV. EDWARD MARTIN of Pennsylvania, upper picture, is shown conferring with Teamster officials in Pittsburgh. The governor, seated at the left, is jesting with International Organizer Albert Dietrich of Pittsburgh, while standing, left to right, are International Organizers Nicholas P. Morrissey of Boston, James Ruehl of Buffalo and Leo Carter of Birmingham.

Below—Thomas E. Flynn of Indianapolis, assistant to President Tobin, is shown conferring with Dietrich, center, and right, Lee W. Minton of the International Glass Bottle Blowers' Association, on strategy in the Pittsburgh brewery situation.

Tobin Calls Off Oakland Strike

International Union Opposes Any General Strike

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

THE Oakland general strike has ended. The general president in Indianapolis, on the third day of the strike, on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Central Time (1 o'clock, Pacific Coast Time), sent the following telegram to the head of our organization in the city of Oakland:

"I HAVE JUST BEEN READING ABOUT A GENERAL STRIKE OF ALL OUR PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BEEN JOINED BY MANY OTHER TRADE UNIONISTS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT.

"THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS IS BITTERLY OPPOSED TO ANY GENERAL STRIKE FOR ANY CAUSE.

"I AM THEREFORE ORDERING YOU AND ALL THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL UNION, TO BRING THIS GENERAL STRIKE TO AN END IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN TO WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"IF THERE ARE GRIEVANCES EXISTING, ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN CONFERENCES AND REACH SETTLEMENTS IN THE REGULAR, ORDERLY, LEGAL MANNER AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

"NO GENERAL STRIKE HAS EVER YET BROUGHT SUCCESS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT. ON THE CONTRARY, THE ONLY RESULT OF A GENERAL STRIKE IS TO PERSECUTE AND INCONVENIENCE THE PUBLIC AND SERIOUSLY INJURE THE THOUSANDS OF FAIR EMPLOYERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE CONTRACTS."

The general president did not give this telegram to the press because he found out at that time the committee representing the strikers was in conference with all the other parties representing the city of Oakland and the employers. No matter what his personal

beliefs were, which he indicated in his telegram to his private local officers and to the vice-presidents in that district—I repeat, no matter what his private opinion was—after due consideration, he knew it would be an injury to the union representatives, and a possible encouragement to the employers which might increase their obstinacy and retard the settlement.

The telegram explains itself. It was to guide Local No. 70 of Oakland by informing them of the position of the International Union, which was distinctly, now as always, against general strikes.

If the conference had broken up and either side refused to continue, then the message would have been given to the press so that all the workers in all the different organizations involved, as well as our own members and their families, would understand the position of the International Union.

This explanation is made because considerable criticism has come to the general office from the representatives of capital and from many of the newspapers as to why that message was not given to the press when it was sent out.

The reasons are now here given in the above explanation, with this addition—that the International president and those who surround him as International officials are not employed by the business interests or by the capitalistic elements of the nation or by labor-hating institutions, some of whom were involved in this strike. The general president and his official family are employed by the Teamsters' Union to work for them and to lead them and advise them as they see the light.

However, we hope that there will not be a repetition of this strike, even though men in unions are goaded on to what is sometimes called direct action.

The story of Oakland is this: Two employers controlling two department stores in the city of Oakland were having trouble with the Retail Clerks' Union. The trucking was done by union men or union contractors. The Retail Clerks pulled their people out on strike and threw a picket line around those two stores. The truck drivers of Local No. 70, as I get the news, refused to go through the picket lines.

When this happened, the labor-hating institutions of California brought up two or three trucks from Los Angeles, so the papers say, driven by ex-servicemen who run a nonunion trucking company in Los Angeles, and whom we understand are encouraged substantially by the nonunion, anti-labor institutions of California. I don't think it would have brought about the awful condition that prevailed if those nonunion drivers had just run their trucks through the picket lines—these so-called ex-patriots who were classed by the labor unions as strike breakers.

But upon putting up the argument that they were in danger of being molested, the city of Oakland gave them a squad of police to take care of them, convoy and protect each truck. Now that is where the mistake was made by the city of Oakland—listening to the employers and listening to the pleas of these nonunion truck drivers brought 400 miles from Los Angeles.

The old proverb of Ben Franklin, who styled himself Poor Richard, comes back to us, "For want of a nail the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe the horse was lost. For want of a horse the rider was lost."

For want of a little common sense and looking into the future, whoever was responsible for furnishing this squad of police for strike breakers, paid for by the taxpayers of Oakland, was responsible for the general strike. They could not see further than their noses, and they were blinded with prejudice and hatred against unions.

That does not excuse the trade union leaders for tying up the city of Oakland and for partially tying up the city of San Francisco. Half a million innocent people were made to suffer because of the blunder made, first, by these two department stores, and

then by bringing in the nonunion truck drivers from a distance of 400 miles, and finally by putting uniformed city policemen on the trucks, or parading or cruising with the strike breaking trucks.

It only takes one match to start a fire, and the fire was started, and it is very difficult to put out a conflagration when it gets headway.

All this business of irritation and wrongdoing on the part of the city officials and the two department store owners whose hatreds belong in the ages past did not excuse labor leaders, supposed to be men of common sense leading the several labor unions in Oakland for tying up the fair employers, inconveniencing the public and bringing suffering and loss of wages to hundreds of thousands of their members. If some captain in the army blunders, that does not mean that all the other officers of an army should blunder.

At any rate, when the full facts were laid before the general president, he sent the telegram which is printed above. That telegram, from the records, was received in Oakland on Wednesday, December 4, 1946, about 3:30, Pacific Coast Time. That message of the general president was not given to the press. I repeat, it was our business to help our people to bring about an understanding. We had notified our top officers of our feeling.

The conference continued in session between the employers and the city officials and the labor unions all Wednesday afternoon and evening, after the telegram was delivered, and a decision to return to work was reached after midnight, Pacific Coast Time, which would be 3 A. M., New York Time.

The settlement, as I understand it at this writing, was as follows: That all individuals return immediately to work, with the exception of the employees in the department stores, and that no further police protection be given to the nonunion trucks.

It was a small victory for the union, and the union paid an awful price by breaking its contracts and by inconveniencing the public, but it also had this effect—it showed up the foolish blunder made by city officials

at the request of labor-hating institutions to bring about such a condition within the great city of Oakland.

From this may we learn a lesson, and if we do, then perhaps it may help us in the future and protect us against similar mistakes that bring about nothing but what could be accomplished before the blunder.

Now, I said in that telegram that no general strike ever brought anything to the workers except misery and inconvenience. Why? Because in my time I have seen more than one general strike—and they were all failures, mistakes, blunders.

My first experience was a business agent in the city of Boston in 1902 or 1903 was a general strike, the tying up of all the city of Boston, because of a disagreement between a nonunion concern and the Teamsters' Union.

Freight handlers refused to handle goods that were hauled by strike breakers. That tied up everything. It lasted for five days, and the governor of Massachusetts, Governor Bates, made a promise that if the men returned to work he would endeavor with all his power to settle the question.

He is dead and gone now, and few are left who saw that strike. But the governor never made good his promise. It set back the Teamsters' Union and other unions many years.

The next general strike I remember was in New York City and was confined mostly to the Teamsters. It resulted from the refusal of the express companies (there were then five large companies) to do business with the union. Nearly all the truck drivers in New York went out on strike, and for three or four days the city was paralyzed.

Mayor Gaynor was then in office, and we brought about a settlement which gave the men the right—just imagine that—the right to belong to a union if they desired, but even after that right was granted and the men returned to work, the promises were broken by the officials of the company and nothing was done by the mayor.

I was in Paris during the British general strike in 1926. I had to come from Paris during that strike, to London. I remember getting in the railroad station and could get

no kind of conveyance, and I had to carry my bags about a mile and a half to get to the hotel. In the hotel there was no coal, with the exception of enough to cook food for the guests. The rooms were very cold, and there was no hot water.

That prevailed all over London and all over England—that awful condition. Taxicabs and trucks and railroads and everything else were tied up. That general strike was brought about because the mine workers and their employers could not reach an agreement, and the mine workers were eventually forced out on strike.

The executive council of the British Trade Union Congress, which is the same as the American Federation of Labor, was called into session, and the miners' plea for a general strike was approved. It created the worst situation that ever confronted England. The strike was a total failure insofar as helping the workers was concerned. Legislation was enacted immediately after that strike which paralyzed and crippled many of the labor unions for 15 or 20 years.

My point is that the general strike was an injury to the trade union movement instead of a help, and no one suffered more than the masses of the toilers, organized and unorganized. The wealthy then in England were many, and most of their incomes remained in their pockets. The trade unions went broke.

Men sometimes cannot be blamed for being bitter and losing their tempers. But they should never forget that they have responsibility for the welfare of the thousands who elect them to office and of the hundreds of thousands who may suffer because of their actions or mistakes.

Any action which brings about a general stoppage of work seriously injures the fair, honest employers and brings nothing but distress of the worst kind to those who trust us and believe that we have brains to lead them on to victory and to keep them out of trouble; not to bring suffering to those who are helpless, the great multitude who belong to unions.

I repeat, a general strike never brought anything but misery and revolution. It is usually the act of impulsive men who are

driven to desperation by the unfair attitude of their enemies, but those men, if they only stopped to think and look at what it might develop into, look at the after results, there would be no general strikes.

I again repeat that perhaps the experience in Oakland may be helpful in guiding us and teaching us self-restraint in other cities. Mistakes and blunders by impractical, sometimes weak leaders may help to guide us in the future. But what a price to pay—crucifying many friends to get at two enemies!

General Organizer Einar Mohn of Los Angeles was ordered immediately to proceed to Oakland and take charge of the general strike and order the men back to work as soon as possible. This was done by Brother Mohn. He did a great job, which required courage, strength and character.

Vice-President and General Organizer Dave Beck kept the wires burning from Seattle to Oakland and was continually in touch with Mohn and others of the International family, which undoubtedly had a strong tendency towards bringing condi-

tions back to somewhere near normal. Those men and others who represent the International Union are, when called upon, there on the job, ready to deliver the goods and carry out the instructions and policies of the International headquarters.

The work of an organizer today is serious and dangerous, and one mistake made by any of them may cost the union its members. It could, if it went on, with court cases and other expenses, destroy the treasuries of the local unions in the district, in addition to breaking down the confidence and good will of the public in the officers and membership of labor unions.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has surrounded themselves with men of intelligence who are nearly always on the job ready to lead and direct and guide unions through the mistakes and pitfalls that surround them.

Organizer Mohn and Vice-President Beck, who were continually in conference during the serious period with the general president, did a splendid job in Oakland.

New Trial Denied in "Battle of the Statler"

Lieut. Randolph Dickins failed in his attempt last month to gain a new trial of his claim for damages against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The federal court in Washington, D. C., denied his peti-

tion for a new trial. The Teamsters won a unanimous verdict from a jury on October 31, rejecting the charges made by Dickins as a result of the famous "Battle of the Statler" in 1944.

Boston Papers Sign New Contract with Local No. 259

Recently we received a letter from Israel Learner, president of Local No. 259, in which he states that his local union, Newspaper Chauffeurs, Distributors and Helpers, of Boston, has reached a full understanding with all their employers in Boston.

This local union has made considerable progress in recent years, and a better understanding prevails between the employers and the membership, and also better understandings and good will are gradually spreading between Local No. 259 and all our other local unions in Boston, where in the past some disagreements prevailed. So states Brother Learner.

The International congratulates the local union and its officers for the splendid agreement which they have been able to enter into with their employers, the publishers of Boston.

We hope that all other employers in Boston will take notice of the fairness of the employers in the newspaper industry and of the common sense and good judgment displayed by all those participating in this new contract.

This undoubtedly will bring better results to the newspaper publishers of Boston and vicinity, as well as greater unity and cooperation to the membership.

Jealousies Weaken Labor Unions

Enemies Promote Discord Inside Organizations

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

THERE is more trickiness and strategy now employed by different sources to create division amongst the men of labor or sometimes within the officers of labor unions than ever resorted to before.

The old saying still goes—if you can plant the seeds of jealousy among the officers of a local union, then their usefulness to the union is almost nil. If you can create dissension amongst the International officials, then you can rest assured that the membership will not get the efficiency that they deserve or that they should receive.

Why should there be friction between the officers of local unions who are elected by the membership to work together and to serve together the membership who placed them in office?

Isn't there glory enough for them all in the labor movement? Whenever there is an organizer or a business agent of the International Union who receives a word of praise from an employer or an association of employers, I am happy and pleased because honor any member of this official family and you honor the International Brotherhood.

Then why should men who have been friends for many years and who have worked together and suffered together and rejoiced together—why should they be jealous or fall out with one another over some misunderstanding?

The bigger the man the more he rejoices at the advancement of his friend and associate. Only small men of small, narrow minds allow the seeds of discontent and jealousy to consume their thinking powers. This applies to every walk and condition of life. Jealousies amongst nations have brought about wars. Jealousies in big business have destroyed parts of that business. Hatreds within corporations have helped only the enemies of that corporation.

Hatreds and jealousies within the labor

movement (and there are few, very few) have had a tendency to weaken the effectiveness of the labor movement to bring the full measure of beneficial results to the general membership. I have seen unions destroyed because of divisions within them. Those divisions have been created by jealousies amongst the officers. I repeat, those are isolated cases because the labor movement is founded on an obligation of each member to help, work for and protect other members.

If we will bear in mind that if we have a friend who makes a mistake it is our duty to be considerate and charitable and to try to convince that friend that the mistake should not be repeated.

It is true that when one man is placed at the head of a local union, he must see to it that his orders are carried out by his subordinates because he, in turn, is responsible to the membership.

That rule applies to the International Union, and I state now, without any hesitancy, while I have had to lay off some men in my time, there was nothing to me more displeasing. I would rather hire a man or promote him than to have to discharge him, and I can assure you that it is not without great consideration and tolerance and it is not until after I have made a sincere effort to overlook mistakes that I have been compelled, in the interests of the general membership and in the fulfillment of my duties, to dispense with the services of some of those whom it has been my duty to appoint.

Again, some men get too big for their hats. This type, however, are "small men." No man, even the general president, is bigger than the organization that made him. Those who think otherwise soon find themselves, when it is too late, "outside looking in."

If there is anything in our obligation, it is that sentence which states we shall always

endeavor to protect a brother, but, even having this before my mind, there is a duty higher than that, and that is to guard the interests of the enormous membership that has elected us to take care of their affairs and to protect them against any dangerous conditions that surround them, and above and beyond that, to see to it that those who work for them render service in accordance with the requirements of their positions.

So at the beginning of this year the newly elected officers and those who have held over

in office should get together and pledge themselves to work with one another with greater diligence and sincerity, if possible, than before, to the end that this vast union of ours and the membership we represent will be able to go forward shoulder to shoulder, unified and strengthened by confidence and respect for each other and to bring about, with this united front, defeat to the innumerable enemies who are organizing at this time throughout the nation to weaken, set back or perhaps strangle our union.

Farmers Concerned by Lowered Industrial Pay

Big business moguls want farmers to think the working man in the cities is floating around in the lap of luxury.

Let's look at the government figures as reported by the Associated Press.

These figures show the average city worker is taking home less pay than he did a year ago. That means less money with which to buy your food at respectable prices.

On a weekly basis, the average worker is making about \$3.14 less than a year ago. On an hourly basis, workers are averaging about six cents more than a year ago—noth-

ing like the 18½ cents an hour you heard so much about. The average worker now is receiving \$43 a week. In June of last year he was receiving \$46 a week and, in January, 1945, he was receiving \$47 a week, the highest his pay ever reached.

It's true the workers received generally an 18½-cent-an-hour wage increase in the last year.

But by cutting down the overtime, management has not only saved itself money but taken out of circulation the \$3.14 per worker that the latter has to spend.

—*Farmers' Union Herald.*

Suit Looms Against Railroads for Overcharges

A consistent campaign by Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho to recover several million dollars which he claimed the big railroads overcharged the government for shipping War Department freight during the war is apparently coming to a head.

Attorney General Tom Clark agreed at a recent meeting with Secretary of War Robert Patterson and Budget Director James Webb that his department should bring suit against the railroads, after Senator Taylor a month earlier had blasted Webb's lack of interest in moving against the railroads.

Senator Taylor had made public a list of railroad executives who during the war served on a War Department standing rate committee and allegedly padded government transport bills in favor of their past and future employers.

The Department of Justice announcement

of the suit follows original airing of the overcharges by a little less than one year. Figures on Class I railroad profits for the war years, 1941-1945, show a total net gain of \$3,390,000,000—a 700 per cent gain over the years 1936-1940.

Making the case public, Senator Taylor said, shows that "the American people are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that the large corporate monopolies, aided by their friends in the army and navy, were able to subvert President Roosevelt's policy of equality of sacrifice.

"These giant corporations used the war situation as an opportunity to make unprecedented profits while workers were frozen in their jobs and salary rates, and while soldiers and sailors faced death with no thought of reimbursement."

—*Federated Press.*

Members Worry About Criticism

Newspaper Publicity Attests Prominence of Union

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

MANY of our members write in, expressing their dissatisfaction at the misstatements or at the statements appearing in newspapers against unions. Some of them ask why the labor movement does not take up those cases and endeavor to answer them.

It must be remembered by our members and our friends that we believe in freedom of speech and freedom of expression within the law.

Newspaper writers are making a living at their writing. They do not write to please the public; they write what they believe the public will read. Newspaper writers, whether they be editorial, special or columnist, are dependent on their trade to make a living.

Some of them who could not even go through high school are making pretty fine salaries. Some writers hew more closely to the truth than others, but again that is their affair; that is their business.

If they make misstatements or libelous statements, they are subject either to correction or to prosecution—or the papers that publish them. The publication of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters endeavors to publish the facts in a case, making, as nearly as we can find out, truthful statements on conditions as they exist.

This we did, if you remember, in the so-called "Battle of the Statler," where we honestly endeavored to set forth the true story of that incident. The newspapers of the nation had circulated other statements which were not based on facts. For instance, the first issues of the newspapers on this case, shortly before the election in 1944, charged even your general president with being in a rowdy, drunken brawl, etc.

The facts in the case were that the general president was in his room with the members of his family and friends and did not know anything about the two naval officers who got into the brawl.

As you read in the last issue of the journal, when the case came to trial before a jury in the federal court in Washington, D. C., the jury, as they were polled, voted without a dissenting vote that the International Teamster publication had published only the facts and truth and were not liable. We called no nasty names at anybody; we just told the truth, and the court and jury so decided.

But in answer to our people who write us about some of the unjust and what they believe to be untruthful statements appearing in the papers against the labor movement, we desire to say that newspaper publishing is a business. We believe in freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of religion and freedom against being compelled to go to work by injunction.

As long as you do that which is right and as long as an organization and its officers do that which is right and just and in accordance with the laws of the land and with the constitution of the International Union, you need have no fear of critics or of statements in the newspapers. Remember, also, that there have been many very fine, truthful statements made by the press relative to the workings of our International Union.

So don't worry. The time to worry is when they say nothing about your union. When our union amounted to very little from an economic standpoint, with very few members, the newspapers of the country did not waste much time referring to the Teamsters' Union. Today the Teamsters' Union is a great economic power, and that power is not to be abused.

It has the largest membership of any labor union in America. It is dealing with thousands of employers who, if they could, would not do without the union. It has the confidence of the public, and even if one of our unions or its officers sometimes make a slight mistake, this is overlooked in the light

of the fact that out of close to 900,000 paid-up members there is very little disturbance anywhere throughout the length and breadth of the nation.

Wherever disturbances or stoppages of work occur, which we try to prevent before they take place, you can rest assured that we do everything in our power to bring about a settlement.

We even go so far in some places as to penalize the officers or the membership if they are found guilty of doing that which is wrong and in violation of our signed contracts.

So again let me say to our people, as your editor, never mind what the newspapers say, because that's their business. As a matter of fact, we have signed union shop contracts without a stoppage of work with 95 per cent of the newspaper publishers of this country. They, too, must make a living as well as those who write for the press.

Ex-Governor Cox of Ohio, a great man and a real humanitarian as well as a large newspaper publisher and radio station op-

erator, who now resides in Miami, Florida, said to me once, "Mr. Tobin, no matter what else happens, try and keep the name of your organization before the public."

I think we do that fairly well. Our journal is mailed out to the homes of over 650,000 of our members each month, free of charge. It goes, free of charge, to every congressman and senator in the United States. It goes to educational institutions and we have at least 500 inquiries each month from individuals in institutions and publications outside the union, having no connection with unions, commenting and inquiring from us about articles that have appeared in that publication or asking our opinion on matters of importance before the public eye.

I repeat that the time to begin to worry is when the public or the press say nothing about the Brotherhood of Teamsters. Just as the time to worry about your taxes is the year when you have no taxes to pay, then you know you had no income to amount to anything.

Senator Ball Fights Health Measure

There is something pathetic in the efforts of Senator Joe Ball to curry the favor of the old guard Republicans after his masquerades as a liberal a couple of years ago.

After supporting Roosevelt, Ball found himself threatened with extinction by the GOP. He became rabidly anti-labor, proposing restrictions on labor unions that even the National Association of Manufacturers had hesitated to suggest, lest it appear ridiculous.

Ball's latest little play for support from ultra-conservatives is his opposition to the Murray-Dingell-Wagner health bill. Ball is adopting the same line as the American Medical Association—the lying propaganda line that patients and doctors will be regimented.

The bill gives patients the right to choose doctors and it gives doctors the right to fix their own fees. It simply establishes a system whereby, through prepayment, wage earners can meet medical bills.

The medical association is run by the doctors in the higher income brackets. These medics are good contributors to political campaigns for those who will represent their interests.

The belated hop by Ball on the Stassen presidential bandwagon will not fool anyone. Ball has demonstrated he is not a progressive in any sense, but a servant of the old guard. His proposals to hamstring labor are completely at variance with the attitude of progressive Republicans on labor.

Ball's maneuvers on the holding up of the terminal pay bill of the enlisted men is characteristic of the man. He has done the spectacular every time it would be interpreted as courageous.

But now he comes crawling back to the Stassen forces, bidding for the support of the ultra-conservative medics, and the labor-hating farm marketing cooperatives and employers. It is something less than bravery.—*Northwest Teamster.*

Anti-Labor Laws Threatened

BY THE time you read this the new Congress will have convened, together with the legislatures of most of the states. These meetings will unquestionably signal the greatest crusade against labor in modern times. Measures to make labor impotent will appear in Congress and in the state legislatures.

Probably the greatest attack will be on the closed shop. Legislators will endeavor to make it illegal for a union to sign a contract providing that all employees must maintain union membership.

Other proposals to be introduced and considered would break up large unions and make it illegal for one union to represent an entire industry.

Plans to tax union finances, make unions liable to damages on almost any pretext, and to liberalize the injunction laws have been openly discussed by legislators who intend to sponsor them.

The repeal of the Wagner act has even been demanded.

In the face of this flood of hostile legislation, unions must be alert. They must be represented ably before congressional committees and before legislative committees in the state capitols.

They must present the labor viewpoint to their legislators sanely and convincingly.

No local of the Teamsters' Union should neglect this vital task. It should at least participate in any move by labor as a whole in its community to send representatives to sessions of the state legislature.

Preferably, it should send representatives of its own who are qualified to see that the interests of the Teamsters' Union are protected.

All legislation introduced should be scrutinized closely to see if it affects the Teamsters' Union. If it affects the Teamsters' Union adversely, representatives of the union should endeavor to have it amended or defeated.

In spite of the general attack on labor, many members of Congress and the state legislatures are friendly. Others are fair and will vote with labor in instances where a measure is obviously designed to injure labor.

In those instances the dangerous portions of a measure must be pointed out and explained to the individual legislators. They must be told why labor opposes it and why it would not be in the public interest to pass such a measure.

It is not enough to blindly oppose every measure affecting labor in any degree. Most legislators are sensible men and their intelligence should not be insulted. They will vote with us if we are right. It is our job to convince them that we are right. This can only be done by having Teamster representatives on the job at the legislative sessions who can present our position clearly and sensibly.

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